plemented from 1993-94 with a view to augument the resources of the State Governments. The Scheme include struction of court buildings and re tial accommodation for judges and cial Officers. As per the Scheme State Governments are to contribute an amount equivalent to the amount re leased by the Centre. However, the State Governments are free to spend additional amount over and above the amount required to be spent by them under the Scheme. In case of Union Territories, the expenditure is met fully by the Central Government. An amount of Rs. 232.43 crores has been released to various States/UTs from 1993-94 to 1997-98 under the Scheme.

(c) An amount of Rs. 48 crore has been provided for the Scheme in the current financial year 1998-99.

Additional benches of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

2299. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have created new additional benches of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the number of benches which have become functional; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) One Bench at Rajkot has become functional.

(c) The remaining 14 addl. benches could not become functional for want of suitable office accommodation. Necessary office accommodation for the new benches at Agra, Jodhpur, Visakhapatnam, Goa and Bangalore has already been finalised and these benches are likely to become functional as soon as the work is completed.

Contempt cases in Patna and Ranchi Benches of Patna High Court

2300. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than 3300 contempt cases in Patna and Ranchi Benches of Patna High Court

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of action contenmpleted to be taken by Government in this conection?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Measures to update obsolete laws

2301. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appear ing in 'The Statesmen', dated the 9th January, 1999, under the caption "Obso lete laws responsible for delays", wherein the Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Shri N. Vittal has come down strongly on the obsolete laws pointing out that 1000 out of 3000 laws in the country belong to the 19th century; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being to do away with or to suitably update such laws to quicken the pace of dipen sation of Justice;

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes

(b) With the approval of the Prime Minister, Commission on review of administrative Laws under the Chairmanship of Shri P. C. Jain was set up with the objective of: